



Our mission is to prevent deaths, injuries, property loss, and environmental damage resulting from wildfires in Deschutes County.

**December 17, 2019 – Steering Committee – Regular Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Approved Minutes**

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

	Vacant	Fire Rep 1	
x	Bill Boos for Doug Green	Fire Rep 2	Bend Fire and Rescue
x	Ray Miao for Gary Marshall	Fire Rep 3	Deschutes Rural Fire Dist. #2
	Dan Daugherty	Fire Rep 3	LaPine Fire Dept.
x	Gary Githens	Insurance Industry	Brown & Brown
	Vacant	Business Community	
	Erica Pelley	Marketing	High Desert Museum
	Chris Perry	911 Service District	Deschutes County
x	Zechariah Heck	Community Development Dept.	Deschutes County
	Dan Galecki	Private Forestry	Spin Drift Forestry
x	Patti Gentiluomo	HOA Rep	Sunriver HOA
	Dave Gibson	HOA Rep	Black Butte Ranch HOA
x	Dean Richardson	HOA Rep	Upper Deschutes River Communities
	Craig Letz, Vice-Chair	HOA Rep	Tree Farm
x	Nathan Garibay	Sheriff's Office - Emergency Mgmt.	Deschutes County
	George Chesley	Citizen Rep	At Large - Retired
	Vacant	Citizen Rep	
x	David Morman	Citizen Rep	At Large - Red Cross
x	Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
x	Alex Robertson	COFMS	USFS
	Nicole Strong	US Forest Service	
	Paula Simone	OSU Extension Service	OSU Ext
	Vacant	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
	Vacant	Environmental Community	
x	Ed Keith, Chair	County Forester	Deschutes County
	Tony DeBone	Commissioner	Deschutes County
x	Jodie Barram	Contracted Director	Project Wildfire/FireFree

Public Present:

Nick Ahnen, ServPro Bend

Peter Brewer, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
 Gregory Bryant, Deschutes River Woods #1
 Jenn Eatwell, USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Alison Green, Central Oregon Cohesive Strategy Initiative
 Georgia Hill, Ridge at Eagle Crest
 Dave Howe, Bend Fire and Rescue
 Doug Johnson, US Forest Service/COFMS
 Stacy Lacey, US Forest Service
 Bob Madden, Bend Fire and Rescue
 Bert Neumaier, Tillicum Village
 Bob Pohly, Mt. High HOA
 Stephanie Russo USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Lars Santana, USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Kevin Sullivan, Office of Oregon State Fire Marshal
 Boyd Turner, Eagle Crest HOA

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was opened by Ed Keith, Chair. Introductions were made by those in attendance (name/affiliation).

AGENDA, PAST MINUTES AND UPDATE

Ed Keith updated the group that the County is going through interviews and hope to have a selection this week for the Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator. He had an ask of the committee. For the fuel reduction grants he received 21 applications with \$102,000 in requests for the \$40,000 available to give. If any committee members who weren't an applicant are interested, he needs a few more people to help review. He thanked people for steering committee applications. The exemption request for the Smoke Management Plan was approved by the State. It was first in the state.

The agenda was briefly reviewed. Meeting minutes from the November 19, 2019, meeting were approved by consensus.

2019 PROGRAM OF WORK REVIEW

Jodie Barram presented a PowerPoint (Attachment A) with highlights from the year. She updated the committee on the Program of Work:

<u>Program</u>	<u>Obj</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>Outcomes</u>
Fuels Treatment Program	1F, 4B	Implement & Coordinate Sweat Equity Program in South Deschutes County (Joint Chief's Funding)	Dec-19	x	Spring Chipping Projects: DRRH6, Fall River, Spring River, River Forest Acres, Vandevent South; Fall Chipping Project: DRRH1-5
Community Wildfire Protection Plans	5A, 5B	Review/revise Greater Sisters CWPP	Oct-19	x	Complete and scheduled for adoption.

	5A, 5B	Begin reviewing/revising La Pine CWPP	Dec-19	x	Held 2 of 4 meetings. Projected completion in April 2020.
	1B, 1F, 3D, 4A, 5B	Launch and manage FireFree Spring Clean Up Days – including advertising & Public Relations	Jan- June 19	x	Multiple press releases/interviews, 2nd most successful year on record (behind 2015), up 22% from 2018, largest site YOY increase was LaPine with 124%. COARECT Volunteers were new addition to program.
	1B, 1F, 3D, 5B	Partner with Deschutes Recycling for Half Off Sale in fall	Oct/Nov 19	x	Worked with Susan Baker. Sent multiple press releases, printed flyers, programmed road signs. Collected 8,776 cubic yards. Down 19% from 2018.
FireFree	1B, 1F, 3D, 5B	Work with Deschutes County Solid Waste and Deschutes Recycling to explore the evolution of the FireFree events	Dec-19	x	Found some efficiencies and public relations growth opportunities. Will increase signage in 2020. DR would like to see expansion of 1/2 price sale to include County Transfer Stations. That was also requested by many residents during the Fall event.
	1A, 1B, 1C, 1F, 3D, 5B	Explore & facilitate discussions with Deschutes Recycling on expanding the availability of green waste containers to Deschutes County Residents	Dec-19	x	Initiated conversations about opt-in service with in-city and out-of-city pricing structures. Cascade Disposal/Waste Connections has a new person to reach out to. Suggest attending advisory committee meetings.
	1A, 1B, 1F, 3D, 4A, 5B	Explore other land parcels options to replace the West Side transfer station site	Apr-19	x	Secured Brooks Resources/Discovery West location off Skyliners. Partners included Brooks Resources, Deschutes County Solid Waste & Road Departments, & Bend Fire Department.
	1A, 1B, 1F, 3A,	Secure community presentations around wildfire topics to groups like Chambers, City Club, Service Clubs	Dec-19	x	~25 Presentations and ~10 Events for 2019
Outreach	1A, 1B, 1F, 4A, 6D	Facilitate discussion for building codes & ordinances	Dec-19	o	County Commission established Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee to address this issue at the County level.
	1A, 3A, 6D	Participate, promote & support Bend Fire Department/Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) recommendations	Dec-19	x	Supporting efforts of Doug Green and Bob Madden from Bend Fire and Rescue. Will be ongoing.

	1D, 3A, 4A	Engage with the Deschutes Collaborative Forest Project (DCFP)	Dec-19	x	Participating in Outreach Committee and Sponsor Program Subcommittee.
	1A, 4A, 4B, 6D	Coordinate & implement a defensible space course for landscapers, planners, builders, and/or fire service	Dec-19	x	Carry over from 2018 to implement if requested. Supported Alison Green in her coordination of a COCC class offering and was a resource for class attendees during and following the training.
Communications	1A, 1F, 3B, 6D	Explore coordinated messaging with partners for communicating safe burning practices to Deschutes County Residents (videos, social media, etc.).	Dec-19	x	Engaged with local, state and federal partners to promote. Worked with Central Oregon Fire Prevention Co-Op on Firebusters segment for fall.
	3A, 3B, 6A	Maintain website, blog calendar, & social media presence	Dec-19	x	Regular updates, 3 blog posts; Social Media Jan-Nov: Facebook - 2,790 Likes, 2,896 Followers, 89,494 Reach, Twitter - 901 followers, 45,276 impressions
Communications	1A, 1E, 1F, 3A	Explore cohesive fire season messaging with Central Oregon Fire Management Service (COFMS) & Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) for streamlined outreach during large incidents	Dec-19	x	Working with COEIN, EMPC, and Sheriff's Office of Emergency Management, Co-Op
	3A, 3B	Provide monthly press releases to partners and media outlets	Dec-19	o	Provided formal press releases in February, April, May, and October. Conducted media interviews throughout the year in addition to press releases.
Firewise USA®	1A, 1F, 3C	Cultivate potential Firewise USA® Sites	Dec-19	x	Awbrey Butte HOA - Complete, Awbrey Park HOA - Submitted/Pending, Awbrey Village HOA - Not Submitted, Boonesborough - Assessed/Not Submitted, Clear Pine - Complete, DRRH6 - Not Submitted, Elkai Woods - Assessed/Not Submitted, Ponderosa Cascade - Assessed/Not Submitted, Horse Butte HOA - Not Submitted, Indian Ford Meadows East - Submitted/Pending, Indian Ford Ranch - Submitted/Pending, Lane Knolls Estates - Complete, Mt. High - Not Submitted, River Bend Estates - Not Submitted, Romaine Village 7/8 - Not Submitted, Shevlin

					Pines HOA - Not Submitted, Sundance Meadows - Not Submitted, Touchmark - Assessed/Not Submitted, Trout Creek Village - Assessed/Pending, Westbrook Meadows - Not Submitted, Wyndemere - Assessed/Not Submitted
	1F, 3C	Participate in the 4-Star Firewise USA® Assessment Pilot	Dec-19	x	Crossroads
Education & Networking	3A, 6D	Attend the Reno Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Conference	Mar-19	x	Attended March 23-28
Steering Committee	1F, 2A, 4A	Recruit & retain active participants on Steering Committee	Dec-19	x	Some existing members were reappointed early in the year. Others renewed & are awaiting reappointment. Call for new members closed in December and are awaiting Board of County Commissioner's review and appointment.
	1F, 2A, 3B, 4A	Encourage more public awareness of monthly meetings	Dec-19	x	Added to KTVZ, The Bulletin & The Source Calendars, added meeting minutes to website, include media in monthly reminder/agenda email.
Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) Learning Network Activities	6B, 6D	Attend the FAC face-to-face networking conference in Ashland	Apr-19	x	Attended April 22-25
	2A, 4A, 6C	Invite & facilitate steering committee members to participate in FAC webinars as appropriate	Dec-19	x	Unhoused populations monthly conference calls
	1A, 4A, 4B, 6D	Facilitate a discussion with local partners on Long Term Recovery in Deschutes County	Jun-19	x	Can Central Oregon Be the Next Paradise Workshop April 18th
	1A, 1D, 1F, 6C, 6D	Participate & support a working group on Rx smoke & health mitigation techniques	Jun-19	x	SAPH
	1A, 1D, 1F, 6C, 6D	Participate and support a County discussion on Rx smoke & health mitigation techniques	Dec-19	x	SAPH, centraloregonfire.org website
Evacuations	1A, 1F,	Coordinate messaging with communities & Deschutes Emergency Management	Dec-19	x	March - UDRC with Nathan, April - Steering Committee Mtg Topic other presentations, Sundance signage

	3E, 4B			
	1B, 1F, 3B, 3E	Engage regional & local Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs) to reach visitors in Deschutes County	Dec-19	x Brochure distribution to partners in Bend, Redmond, Sisters, La Pine, and Sunriver. Also, with Visit Bend and Central Oregon Visitors Associations. Sunriver & Black Butte Ranch non-emergency text alerts.

Jodie Barram asked the Steering Committee and members of the public for feedback.

What went well:

Nathan Garibay said it was too long of a list. One real value is the networking hub of multi-disciplinary fields that come together once a month. He feels someone in the room can usually address any issues or answer questions that come up.

Bob Madden said the FireFree expansion was successful.

Zechariah Heck appreciated the overall capturing of events and materials.

Doug Johnson noted the continuing increase of people at this meeting and broadness of communities at meeting. The continual upkeep of CWPPs because federal agencies lean into them. Would like to see that continue into the future.

Dean Richardson felt the involvement of people at the meetings and consistency of messaging were good and encouraged keeping that up.

What could be improved, expanded, or changed:

Nathan Garibay suggested we might need a bigger room.

Ed Keith asked what could we do differently or add to/change on the list. It evolves over time, and is not a static list. It reflects how priorities can change.

Ray Miao said looking over the years, Jodie is fantastic, Alison Green was fantastic, and joked that Ed can't die. He thinks working with kids is key. It's also going to be important getting County and City officials educated on how to move forward. Taking information from fire professionals to the public will be ongoing. He wondered how we get rid of barriers in a non-political, action-oriented way.

Doug Johnson thinks there should be support for continued development of building standards, and defensible space standards especially in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). Ray Miao seconded that. Bob Madden said it's going to take more public involvement and support. He'd like to see the group looking County-wide and Central Oregon-wide.

Stacy Lacey would like to see more Crook and Jefferson Counties coordination.

Nathan Garibay said that for Emergency Management, his office and Project Wildfire are joined at the hip. It is important for each community to chart their own path. Jodie mentioned that Stacy and Janel Ruehl with Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council are taking on more coordination with Project Wildfire for Crook and Jefferson Counties respectively.

Nick Ahnen suggested engaging the business community more.

Doug Johnson would like to see grant programs to treat more of our land and educate people.

Nathan Garibay said that the Project Wildfire websites look great. He's not sure what that will be like going forward. He would like to see community buy in for people to engage with. Project Wildfire should be on the forefront.

Jodie Barram asked for a subcommittee to meet before the next Steering Committee meeting to outline a 2020 Program of Work. Gordon Foster, Ray Miao for Gary Marshall, Nathan Garibay, Alex Robertson, and Patti Gentiluomo offered to be in that group. Ed Keith will email this week to schedule between now and the next meeting.

ROUNDTABLE

Gordon Foster did not have much to report. Oregon Department of Forestry will be doing a community assistance grant. There will be openings this January for seasonal positions.

Ray Miao for Gary Marshall reported that the Tumalo Station is officially open. It is energy efficient, and even has solar panels. The big news is that tomorrow they'll go through the punch list for the Pilot Butte Station. January 8th they'll have a grand opening. Woodside Ranch is putting out its first fire e-newsletter about Paradise and lessons learned from the Camp Fire. If anyone knows how to put out an attractive newsletter let him know. It'd be voluntary (not paid).

Lars Santana shared that they are having a local working group meeting. It will be at Redmond City Hall on February 11th. They are soliciting comments related to forestry projects or anything in general.

Doug Johnson said that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) continue to put some smoke in the air due to pile burning. Those agencies are sending firefighters to Australia. Each region is sending a group.

Greg Bryant let the group know that Deschutes River Woods #1 put in an application for the Deschutes County grant.

Bob Madden reiterated that the Tumalo Station looks good for long term commitment to the community.

David Morman reported that the American Red Cross is looking for volunteers for Disaster Reaction Teams particularly in Sisters, Redmond and south Deschutes County.

Kevin Sullivan wished everyone happy holidays.

Bert Neumaier shared that Tillicum Village applied for the Deschutes County grant as well. He would be interested in meeting with other Home Owners Associations. He would like to see what others are doing for newsletters.

Dave Howe said that Bend Fire and Rescue appreciates this group because of the broad range of folks in the room. It helps with other emergencies to have this network.

Nathan Garibay met with consultants about the regional training center. It's going to be a big project. They are looking at a phased approach. They've narrowed it down to a site in

Redmond adjacent to the Air Center. It's an exciting project. He is rolling out the next phase of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) in the City of Bend's Awbrey Butte, Summit West, and Larkspur Neighborhood Associations.

Dean Richardson reported that the Upper Deschutes River Communities (UDRC) has wrapped up projects for the year. The senior disabled low-income program was successful. He sat in on the La Pine CWPP update. It's vast. He was struck by Chief Supkis' comments on the process that unless a significant amount of work gets done on private lands to harden communities that it would just be a formality. The Chief felt that state and federal lands are well managed. There was not much community in the room and he hopes south county can get representation in the room. He also requested more prescribed fire please.

Georgia Hill shared that the Ridge at Eagle Crest applied for the grant too. Their budget has been approved will remove 120 additional trees as well as grass management for 2020.

Alison Green's Cohesive Strategy website is in development and she hopes it will be up in February 2020. COCC January classes are sold out which is exciting. The next classes will be April 2nd and 3rd.

Boone Zimmerlee is working on grants.

Gary Githens said that with all the fires in California there are some insurance issues. He explained that the Fair Plan program is available when someone can't get standard insurance. Right now, there is a lawsuit in California with the Insurance Commissioner who was increasing obligations of the Fair Plan. It will impact all ratepayers. In 2017, for every \$2 paid out \$1 was collected. In 2018, \$1.70 for each \$1 was collected. This could impact issues here. Dean Richardson asked if it's like an 'assigned risk program'. Gary said yes. It's an alternative market for people who aren't qualifying for other insurance. Oregon already has a similar plan. Ray Miao asked if companies are reducing rates because of defensible space. Gary said some, but a 2-5% change in rates is not a meaningful enough number for people to do it. Ray thought the bigger carrot is actually getting insured. Gary added that is what pushes people into the fair plan.

Zechariah Heck shared that last night Deschutes County had its 6th Wildfire Advisory Committee meeting. It was productive. They split people into groups to look at maps. There were six in favor of the wildfire hazard zone as it is today and looked at exceptions. There were five in favor of updating wildfire hazard zone to CWPP subregions. That means some portions wouldn't be subject to new standards. He wanted the group to stay tuned for maps that identify those areas. The County will post them on their website and have Project Wildfire share them. Greg Bryant asked for more detail. Zechariah explained the buffers around destination resorts, cities, Sunriver, Terrebonne. The project website has a decision matrix for people to get a better understanding. The Community Development Department applied for a technical assistance grant and was awarded \$10,000. They will use it for a road show about the decisions of the committee, defensible space and legislation.

Bob Pohly explained that the Mt. High Home Owners Association has 255 homes divided into three different villages. He's in Alpine Village. They had Jodie Barram present and Mt. High is looking at becoming Firewise. He applied for the Project Wildfire Steering Committee and has worked with Red Cross too.

Alex Robertson reported that the Central Oregon Fire Management Service (COFMS) went through their permanent fire hire event and it was very successful across both forests. He should know about the Crook County Joint Chiefs proposal for the Ochoco Forest soon. He met with Joyce Amelia for the Federal Forest Service Executive Board. One of their roles is emergency management planning. She wanted to come here and discuss what makes us successful. Her background is diplomacy. She is really interested in how we manage response and work. He also met with Craig Letz, and is building on the City Club presentation from this year. They may do another one on smoke to share why they do prescribed fire, the extensive planning involved, Bend's exemption to the Smoke Management Plan, and what it means moving forward to increase the pace and scale of prescribed burns. It's a good opportunity to educate the public through City Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am.